

Attorney Docket No. 33449.8029.US00

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office via facsimile number (571) 273-1141, Attention: Examiner Ana M. Fortuna, on:

Date: January 26, 2006By: 

Rena Iov

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: MURALIDHARA ET AL.

APPLICATION NO.: 09/909,488

FILED: JULY 20, 2001

FOR: NANOFILTRATION WATER-SOFTENING
APPARATUS AND METHOD

EXAMINER: ANA M. FORTUNA

ART UNIT: 1723

CONF. NO.: 2586

TRANSMITTAL OF AMENDED DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R.
RULE 1.132 OF H.S. MURALIDHARA

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In paragraph 3 of the "Amended Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. Rule 1.132 of H.S. Muralidhara" submitted herewith, the date of graduation is changed from 1977 to 1978 to reflect the correct year of Dr. Muralidhara's graduation. No other changes have been made to the Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,

Perkins Coie LLP


Joseph P. Hamilton

Registration No. 51,770

Date: January 26, 2006Correspondence Address:

Customer No. 34055
Perkins Coie LLP
Patent – LA
P.O. Box 1208
Seattle, WA 98111-1208
Phone: (310) 788-9900
Fax: (310) 788-3399

[33449-8029/LA060250.071]

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:)
MURALIDHARA et al.) Group Art Unit: 1723
Serial No.: 09/909,488) Examiner: Fortuna, Ana M.
Filed: July 20, 2001)
For: NANOFILTRATION WATER-) RECEIVED
SOFTENING APPARATUS AND) CENTRAL FAX CENTER
METHOD) FEB 01 2006

**AMENDED DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R.
RULE 1.132 OF H.S. MURALIDHARA**

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

I, Harapanahalli S. Muralidhara, declare that:

1. I am a citizen of the United States having a residence at 2325 Yuma Lane N, Plymouth, MN 55447. I submit this declaration in support of the U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/909,488 (the "488 Application").

2. I am employed by Cargill, Inc. ("Cargill") located in Minneapolis, Minnesota as Vice-President, Corporate Plant Operations/Process Technology. I am one of the inventors of the '488 Application. The '488 Application is assigned to Cargill.

3. I graduated from West Virginia University, in 1977 with a degree in Chemical Engineering. I have over 25 years of experience in membrane processes. My background includes over 27 years of industrial experience in chemical, food processing, and environmental engineering. My research focus is in separations technology, including membrane technologies, membrane fouling research, separation and purification of natural products, and water related processes. I am a co-inventor of over 23 issued U.S. patents and 15 patent applications, and have edited two books on advances in solid/liquid separation.

4. In accordance with the duty to disclose information material to patentability under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, I am not aware of any information that has not been previously disclosed that may be considered material to patentability regarding the use of the Koch SR1 membrane for the softening of potable water under the conditions as presently claimed.

5. Attached as Exhibit A is a document titled "Koch Membrane Systems," <<http://www.kochchemtech.com/KMS.htm>>, last viewed January 20, 2006, which reflects a copyright of 2001 and suggests several uses for Koch membranes, none of

which include the softening of potable water under any conditions, let alone the conditions presently claimed.

6. Attached as Exhibit B is a document titled "Membranes for Food Use" dated 1999, which suggests the use of the SR1 membrane for dairy applications, not for the softening of potable water under any conditions, let alone the conditions presently claimed.

7. Attached as Exhibit C is a release dated July 8, 2002 – approximately one year after the filing date of the present application – titled "Koch Membrane Systems Introduces the SR2 Nanofiltration Membrane."

I, Harapanahalli S. Muralidhara, having acknowledged that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both (18 U. S. C. 1001) and may jeopardize the validity of the Application or any patent issuing thereon, declare that all statements made above of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made above upon information and belief are believed to be true.

Dated: January 25, 2006

By: Harapanahalli S. Muralidhara
Harapanahalli S. Muralidhara

FEB-01-2006 12:32PM FROM-PERKINS COIE LLP

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:)
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RECEIVED
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FEB 01 2006

**DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. RULE 1.132
OF H.S. MURALIDHARA**

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

I, Harapanahalli S. Muralidhara, declare that:

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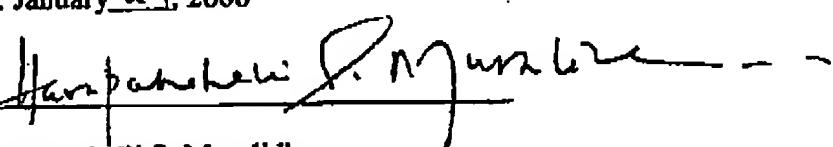
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Dated: January 24, 2006

By:


Harapanahalli S. Muralidhara

FEB-01-2006 12:37PM FROM-PERKINS COIE LLP

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